

## REMARKS

Claims 27, 31 and 32 have been amended.

The Examiner has rejected applicants' claims 27-32 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by the Petruzzi, et al. (US 6,049,811) patent or the Hunter, et al. (6,298,327) patent. Applicants have amended applicants' independent claims 27, 31 and 32 and, with respect to such claims, as amended, and their respective dependent claims, the Examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicants' independent claims 27, 31 and 32 have been amended to better define applicants' invention. More particularly, applicants' amended independent claim 27 recites an information processing apparatus for accumulating technical documents relating to a patent application, comprising: accumulation means for accumulating information about a related prior art document which has been cited by the patent office for examining the patent application and a foreign patent application corresponding to the patent application; and display control means for displaying a list of the prior art documents of said patent application and a list of the foreign patent application corresponding to said patent application accumulated in said accumulation means in the same window. Claims 31 and 32 have been similarly amended. Such a construction is not taught or suggested by the cited art of record.

The Petruzzi, et al. patent discloses a system and method for preparing a patent application and related documents. The patent also mentions as one of the related documents automatically generating an information disclosure statement after the references and information with respect to the references is inputted by a user. However, the patent fails to teach or suggest accumulating information about a related prior art document which has been cited by the patent office for examining a patent application and a foreign patent application

corresponding to the patent application. Nor can it thus teach or suggest displaying a list of the prior art documents of said patent application and a list of the foreign patent application corresponding to said patent application accumulated in said accumulation means in the same window.

Likewise, the Hunter, et al. patent discloses a system and method for preparing a patent application in which a user can input prior art references for the sections of the patent application. However, this patent also fails to teach or suggest accumulating information about a related prior art document which has been cited by the patent office for examining a patent application and a foreign patent application corresponding to the patent application, and displaying a list of the prior art documents of said patent application and a list of the foreign patent application corresponding to said patent application accumulated in said accumulation means in the same window.


Applicants' independent claims 27, 31 and 32, and their respective dependent claims, all of which recite such features, thus patentably distinguish over the Petruzzi, et al. and Hunter, et al. patents.

In view of the above, it is submitted that applicants' claims, as amended, patentably distinguish over the cited art of record. Accordingly, reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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